

Frederick Hollander
3334 California Street
Berkeley CA 94703

Aug 30th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

To the Commissioners of the FCC

I am a customer of an independent contractor Internet Service Provider. It rents wire connections from AT&T and uses them (and the fiber connections at a less local level) to provide me with service.

Not only is their service friendly and local, but their service technicians work to fix problems in a prompt and cheerful way. In addition, they provide, over the same connection that AT&T used (my copper phone line) substantially higher connection speed, and unlimited telephone service at a combined price well below that of AT&T. I chose my independent supplier because the only choices in my neighborhood were AT&T and COMCAST, both of whom were denying that it was possible to get what I got from my independent. Both of them were also much more expensive for the simple service that I wanted and tried to convince me to take multi-year plans that included even more rate hikes over a discounted rate. (In other words they were acting like the domineering near-monopolies that they are.)

If the petition from US Telecom is allowed, I feel it is most likely (given past performance) that AT&T will raise the rate that they pay to access the wires that lead to my home and will drive this innovative and well-run company out of business. Having removed that competition there will be nothing left to keep them from raising their rates (since the COMCAST rates, their only competition in my neighborhood, are already higher than theirs).

Voiding of the 1996 regulations will not produce a cheaper service for me. Period. End.

Frederick Hollander